

CLAIMS

1. A power amplifier circuit comprising at least one first amplifier having a first input receiving an input voltage through at least one first coupling capacitor and connected to an output of the first amplifier, and having a second input, separate from the
5 first input, receiving a reference voltage supplied by a time constant circuit comprising a decoupling capacitor, at least one first controllable switch connecting the first and second inputs.

2. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first controllable switch connects
10 directly the first and second inputs

3. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the output of the first amplifier is connected to a load by a second coupling capacitor, at least one second controllable switch connecting the output and the first input.
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4. The circuit of claim 1, wherein a second amplifier receives at a first input the outputs of the first and second amplifiers, the second inputs of the first and second amplifiers being interconnected, the outputs of the first and second amplifiers being connected to respective terminals of a load.
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5. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the second input is connected to the midpoint of a series connection between high and low supply terminals of first and second resistors.

25 6. The circuit of claim 5, wherein at least one second controllable switch, controlled at the same time as the first controllable switch, is interposed between the second resistor and the low supply terminal.

7. The circuit of claim 6, wherein a third controllable switch, controlled by a
30 same signal as the first controllable switch, and of inverse control logic, is interposed between the high supply terminal and the first resistor.

8. A power amplifier circuit comprising:
a first amplifier having a first input, a second input and an output;
a first coupling capacitor, connected to the first input, for receiving an input
5 voltage;
a reference voltage circuit for supplying a reference voltage to the second input;
and
a controllable switch connected between the first and second inputs.

10 9. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 8, further comprising a
second coupling capacitor for coupling the output of the first amplifier to a load and a
second controllable switch connected between the output and the first input.

15 10. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 9, further comprising a
feedback element connected between the output and the first input.

11. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 8, wherein the reference
voltage circuit comprises first and second resistors forming a resistive divider, a junction
point of the resistive divider connected to the second input, the reference voltage circuit
20 further comprising a decoupling capacitor connected to the junction point of the resistive
divider.

12. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 11, further comprising a
second controllable switch connected in series with the second resistor, wherein the first
25 and second controllable switches have inverse control logic.

13. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 12, further comprising a third
controllable switch connected in series with the first resistor, the first and third
controllable switches having inverse control logic.

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14. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 8, further comprising a

second amplifier having first and second inputs and an output, the first input of the second amplifier receiving the outputs of the first and second amplifiers, the second inputs of the first and second amplifiers being interconnected and the outputs of the first and second amplifiers being connected to respective terminals of a load.

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15. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 14, wherein the reference voltage circuit comprises first and second resistors connected in series between high and low supply voltages to form a resistive divider, a junction point of the resistive divider connected to the second inputs of the first and second amplifiers, and a decoupling
10 capacitor connected to a junction point of the resistive divider.

16. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 15, further comprising a second controllable switch connected in series with the second resistor, the first and second controllable switches having inverse control logic.

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17. A power amplifier circuit as defined in claim 16, further comprising a third controllable switch connected in series with the first resistor, the first and third controllable switches having inverse control logic.

20 18. A method for operating a power amplifier comprising a first amplifier having a first input, a second input and an output, a first coupling capacitor connected to the first input and a reference voltage circuit connected to the second input, said method comprising:

receiving an input voltage through the coupling capacitor;
25 receiving a reference voltage at the second input; and
connecting the first and second inputs together in a standby mode.

19. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein connecting the first and second inputs comprises applying a standby signal to a first controllable switch connected
30 between the first and second inputs.

20. A method as defined in claim 18, further comprising connecting the output of the first amplifier to a load by a coupling capacitor, and connecting the output and the first input together in the standby mode.